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Having a ball at bowling

The Haliburton County Huskies joined forces with the Haliburton Red Wolves Special Olympics bowling team on Feb. 19 in Minden. For more photos, see inside this edition. /TIM YANO staff photographer

HHHS looks to community for input on Master Plan

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The topic of the aging population in Haliburton County has been a circulating conversation for years. Over the next 20 years, the population in Haliburton Highlands Health Services' (HHHS) catchment area is expected to increase by 22 per cent, while it is predicted that the 80 plus population will grow by 59 per cent over the next 10 years. "Our population is growing and it's aging," said HHHS CEO and President Veronica Nelson. "So we need to plan for our future."

Nelson and her team are at the very early stages of what she shared could be a ten year project: the development of a formalized Master Plan for HHHS. Simultaneously, HHHS will be working on a Long Term Care (LTC) plan. "They go hand-in-hand," said Nelson. "They are interdependent on one another, and you have to speak to all of your facilities."

Nelson noted that rolling out the Master Plan is not a "one and done" initiative. There will be dedicated feasibility studies, traffic

see PLAN page 2

Group lobbies for education of safe fireworks use

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

Fireworks enthusiasts need to be good neighbours.

And that simple advice put into practice could head off an all-out ban on their use or them being restricted to one day in Algonquin Highlands.

Aleem Kanji is the chief advocacy officer at the Canadian National Fireworks Association. That's a group that represents fireworks vendors and enthusiasts. It promotes fair access and safety in the sale and use of fireworks.

There really is an association for just about everything.

He told township council during its Feb 20 meeting that industry and government has to accept the responsibility for vendor certification and training for users of fireworks.

The municipality started a debate about a fireworks bylaw in December on the heels of a survey last summer to gauge public sentiment about the extent of their restriction. A revised draft of a bylaw to prohibit and regulate the sale and setting off of fireworks was tabled during the Feb. 20 council meeting.

It was determined that fireworks will be limited to use only on Canada Day in the township.

Council's July 2024 survey generated 520 responses from the public. The survey was extended until October and drew another 170 responses.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux said in December that the survey wasn't a referendum on fireworks' use in the township. However, she said she'd like to support the will of the people as indicated by the majority of survey respondents who favoured a complete ban on fireworks.

About 61 per cent of respondent were in favour of prohibiting their use.

Kanji said his group recommends that fireworks enthusiasts follow the rules established by their local community. To that end, the association launched its Be A Good Neighbour Program.

The program was borne of federal regulations, he said.

"Which I know most people don't read, so we've tried to distill it down for people and remind folks of the rules of fireworks when using them," he said.

The program's pillars encourage safe preparation beforehand, respect for the community and environment, the need to celebrate responsibly, be safe, and to clean up afterwards.

The association has been active in public relations campaigns across the county in communities where fireworks are permitted.

"Where they're not allowed to be used makes it more difficult for us to work in communities," Kanji said.

Regarding a single-day restriction on using fireworks, he said he's learned that many people won't adhere to such rules. People who live in a community that prohibits fireworks will simply buy them from a neighbouring municipality that allows them.

"Or they may not even leave their home," he said. "They may just buy it online and continue to use (fireworks)."

Bans are very difficult to enforce. Education about fireworks' safe use would be more effective, he said.

There is no scientific evidence that supports the notion that fireworks compromise air quality or are harmful to lakes.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said there's a growing desire among residents for a reduction in the use of fireworks.

"In fact, many of our residents are looking for a total ban," she said. "We have stuck with ensuring that there are fireworks displays allowed on Canada Day as well as permits that people can apply for."

She said there is concern about the detritus from fireworks that goes into nearby lakes. There's also concerns for the threat of forest fires posed by their use.

Danielsen acknowledged that there are challenges with enforcement of a complete ban.

"We recognize that there is a challenge associated with that along with other bylaws," she said. "For the most part, a bylaw will at least reduce the concerns that we have. That there are more people in the community that are willing to follow the rules than not."

"If I may—" Kanji said.

"I'm not looking for an argument," Danielsen said. "I'm just making comments."

Dailloux asked Kanji if he'd ever advocate for fireworks to be launched in the middle of a public zoo.

"I'm not aware of any municipality in the world that would allow for fireworks to be used in a public zoo," Kanji said. "If that's something that you feel your residents would like, I'd be curious as to why that approach would be taken."

"It's actually the opposite of that," Dailloux said. "We live in a place of pristine natural beauty."

She said Algonquin Highlands is 90 per cent Crown land and has unique ecosystems that aren't found anywhere else in southern Ontario.

"And it is tantamount to living in a zoo," Dailloux said.

Quite simply, the sentiment against fireworks in a public zoo should be applied to Algonquin Highlands.

"I'm glad that we've got our bylaw which does find that compromise that shows that some people very much do want fireworks and we allow that one day a year," Dailloux said.

Plan aims to address local long term care crisis

from page 1

projects, and most importantly, a number of public consultation sessions to be able to hear from the community. "At each stage, we will look to the community. We want feedback to co-design our healthcare system." Having a plan in place also lines HHHS up for funding opportunities through the ministry; a key component as the organization looks to expand and grow with the needs of the community.

HHHS launched community town halls when Nelson stepped into the role of CEO in 2023. At the time, the buzz in the county was around the recent Minden ER closure, which occurred prior to Nelson starting in Haliburton. Since then, she has diligently worked to establish transparency and open lines of dialogue with the community; even if it means she takes the heat from disgruntled residents. "There is no plan that makes everyone happy," she noted. "We have to balance all the needs and desires, and it will continue to evolve."

It is required by the Ministry of Health that each hospital site has a Master Plan in place. Despite the requirement, this is the first time HHHS has dove into the process, with Nelson at the helm. She shared that there are multiple stages of the planning process; with near-term and long-term goals and action-items rolled into place.

Some of the near-term initiatives include renovations and restructuring: items that need to be established to lay the foundation for long-term goals, which has a 30-year time frame.

A few of the gaps addressed in the near-term projects include space at the hospital for in-patient care. "We have patients that are being admitted to unconventional spaces," Nelson said. "We don't have enough beds, and we know that." Currently, there are 15 beds available in the Haliburton ER, with an average of 18 patients at any given time. This results in increased "hallway medicine," as staff try to keep up with the need.

The other area of focus is the future of LTC in the community. "We know that having small homes is not sustainable," Nelson said. "We cannot continue to operate in this manner."

Nelson noted that an efficient and sustainable LTC model consists of 160 to 192 beds. "Our goal is to hit 160," she said. The average time to access a bed in a LTC home across the province is 200 days. For Haliburton, it's 300 days, and for Minden, it averages 700. "We're looking for innovative models to bring to the community," Nelson said, in reference to expanding the LTC offerings across the county. The team at HHHS has also partnered with McMaster University to garner a collaborative approach to LTC in the region.

LTC is the first major issue that Nelson and her team will be tackling during the town hall meetings, which is slated for March 5 at their Minden site auditorium and virtually. The second topic of conversation, set for March 26, will really dive into what a hospital Master Plan looks like, and how it is rolled out.

The first session was held on Feb. 19, and provided a general overview of what the next steps are for the community wants and needs as the Master Plan takes shape. "Thank you to our incredible community for joining us in-person and virtually for our first Future of Care Forum," said Lauren Ernst, communications and employee experience lead, and the moderator of the town hall sessions. "Our Master Planning efforts represent a unique and much-needed opportunity in the history of HHHS to rethink and revitalize our healthcare infrastructure."

Ernst and Nelson are eager to co-design a healthcare system that is robust, and capable of meeting the needs of the community, both now and in the future.

"The whole process is iterative and long," said Nelson. "If people feel they have missed an opportunity to speak, we're really open to hearing from our community."

Ernst is eager about what these next steps will look like for the collaborative efforts between HHHS and the community. "We have a desire to roll up our sleeves and work on this with the community," she said. "It's such a vital part of it all, and the only way forward is to do something different."

For more information on upcoming town hall sessions, visit hhhs.ca/Master-Planning.

NDP comes to county

NDP candidate Barbara Doyle spoke to visitors at an NDP Meet and Greet event at the Pinestone this past weekend. Topics such as housing, affordability, grocery rebates, removing interest from OSAP loans, proper representation of Haliburton County's needs in provincial parliament, and the Thermëa Spa being built using taxpayer's dollars. /THOMAS SMITH Staff

Pesticide policies cover enforcement in AH, council told

by **JAMES MATTHEWS**
Times Staff

Algonquin Highlands isn't able to enforce municipal legislation against the sale, transport, and use of pesticides for cosmetic purposes.

Melissa Murray, the township's environmental manager, told council when it met Feb. 20 that a cosmetic use of a chemical pesticide is for anything that isn't deemed essential.

"So it wouldn't cover anything for health and safety or anything like that," she said. "Those have different regulatory requirements."

Municipal staff undertook an investigation of a bylaw to limit or ban the use of pesticides in the township that aligns with the strategic goal to strengthen the promotion and support of the protection of lake health. Improper use of pesticides can be a threat to lake health.

"I think it's clear," she said.

Murray said the township has policies that dictates pesticide use on municipal property. Those policies aim for a target to reduce pesticide use or eliminate them all together on the long-term.

"That is a defined goal in our usage policy," Murray said.

The township's environment and stewardship committee reviewed documentation regarding the harmful environmental effects of pyrethrins and other pesticides. Pyrethrins are botanical insecticides derived from the dried flowers of the chrysanthemum plant.

The committee and township council requested municipal staff investigate a potential ban on pesticides.

"Staff have determined that any bylaw that banned the use of pesticides in the Township of Algonquin Highlands will not be enforceable," Murray said in a report to council.

Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux, speaking on behalf of the committee, said she'd be happy to consider some educational components around "specific elements" of pesticide use.

Beyond provincial regulation, all pesticides available and used in Canada are regulated under federal parameters.

Pesticide use on municipal properties is regulated by the township's Pesticide Use on Municipal Properties Policy. The policy states that the Township of Algonquin Highlands will manage vegetation and pests on all municipally owned or leased properties using Integrated Pest Management (IPM) practices with the target of reducing and or eliminating pesticide use in the long term.

In a report to township council, staff recommended no further action be taken regarding a ban on pesticide use. Information about the safe and effective use of pesticides and alternatives to pesticide use could be considered for future education campaigns.

> "(Reduced pesticide use) is a defined goal in our usage policy
>
> — MELISSA MURRAY, ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER"

Need for food on the rise in Minden

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

The Minden Community Food Centre is optimistic about the future, as they look back on their past. At their Annual General Meeting, held on Feb. 20 at the centre, the board shared the many accomplishments of their 2024 year.

To start their year, they had adopted a new corporate bylaw, which gave direction to the year ahead, as well as the commencement of a strategic planning exercise, which will outline goals looking ahead for three and five years into the future. Chair of the board, Gary Stoner, outlined the many community partnerships they have developed over the past year, including the Minden Legion, and various other service groups around the area.

As the organization enters their third year of the community garden program, Stoner noted an uptick in interest and need for the plots. "Some use their own plots to grow food for themselves," he noted, "while others donate it back."

Jean Munroe, the manager of the Minden Community Food Centre, provided some numbers on the usage of the site. She displayed a graph which indicated a steady increase of need across the board. In 2021, they were offering food to 200 individuals, and by 2024, that number had increased to 271. "I don't think this projection is going to change any time soon," she said.

Munroe also noted that the amount of food has increased over the years. "We used to provide three to four days worth of food," she said, "but now we're providing seven days worth of food."

Over 96 per cent of the revenues that the centre receives is donations. "We receive very little from any levels of government," noted Jim Wilson, the treasurer of the board.

Wilson was able to provide an image that showcased the time of year that donations are received; with the end of the year looking the heaviest. This coincides with the holiday season. "Most of our donations are received in the last six weeks of the year," he said. "It's just the nature of the beast when that occurs."

The unpredictability of the donation season generally results in the centre starting their fiscal year with a surplus, but makes it hard for the board to plan ahead.

It was noted that the organization hopes to leverage the other seasons to even-out their donations throughout the year. They have started offering donation boxes at various locations around Minden, as well as a tap and pay offering at Coneybeares, Pharmasave, and Boshkung Social in Minden. "This is a new initiative," said Stoner, "but it seems to be going very well so far."

While the centre is focused on funding projects throughout the year, it's no secret that the need around the holiday season has an increased level of urgency. Erin Fearrey and Brandi Hewson, two board members of the centre, took the lead this past year to kick off their Holiday Hamper program. In 2024, they made 192 hampers, which supported 547 individuals in the community. They also purchased 206 gifts, making the value of the hamper hover around $150. While the centre's funds were required to purchase some of the goods, many other additional items were donated. "$10,243 was raised for the hampers," said Fearrey, "so a big thank you to where we live."

Rumblings about the U.S. tariffs hit the table briefly at the AGM, and directors noted that the need for their services may be increased. "With the way the U.S. government is going, food is going to get a lot more expensive," noted Stoner.

As the meeting wrapped up, the board opened the floor to questions. One concern that came up was the year-long interest in fundraising and initiatives, and the opportunities to leverage "summer people."

In reference to tourists and cottagers, Stoner shared that they hope to connect with more lake associations, and have a presence at a series of summer events and activities, to put their name out there in a more relevant manner. "It's part of our strategic priorities to get out there in the summer more," echoed Hewson.

Munroe closed the meeting by thanking the many volunteers who are affiliated with the Minden Community Food Centre. "We have so many amazing volunteers," she said. "They just show up, and do so much, and it's amazing to see."

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ZOO TO YOU IS COMING TO MINDEN
Get the chance to interact with animals at the Minden Arena (55 Parkside St.)! Join us on Monday March 10th from 9:00am-10:30am for youth aged 4-15 years old. Cost: $7.50. Pre-registration to secure spot is required.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE
• Agnes Jamieson Gallery: The 2nd Annual Archie Stouffer Elementary School Student Art Exhibit – *The Land Between* on display until March 15. Over 100 pieces to see from Artists Grades 1 to 8. A selection of work from our permanent collection is also on display, including pieces by Andre Lapine.
• PA Day Open House: Join us on Friday, February 28 to explore Nature's Place, and to get creative with crafts 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Don't miss the free screening of *The Mighty Ducks* (1992) from 1:00 to 2:30 pm, co-hosted by the Cultural Centre and the HCPL – Minden Branch. Light refreshments will be available, and you are welcome to bring your own snacks.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON
Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

February 27 – Regular Council Meeting
March 13 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES
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NOTICE OF REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the agenda items from the cancelled February 13, 2025, Regular Council Meeting will be placed on the Regular Council Meeting agenda scheduled for February 27, 2025. Note this does not include public meeting PLZBA2024071 which will be rescheduled.

Items that will be added to February 27, 2025, agenda include Regular and Closed Agenda Items.

WINTER PARKING
From Nov 1st to Apr 30th overnight parking is illegal from midnight to 8:00 AM on township roadways and parking lots. Parking in the turning circle of a cul-de-sac is prohibited during all hours. Vehicles parked in areas that interferes with snow removal will be towed away and/or ticketed at the owner's expense.

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Huskies & Wolves

The Haliburton County Huskies joined the Haliburton Red Wolves Special Olympics team this past week at Fast Lane Bowling in Minden. The annual tournament resulted in lots of laughs and memories made by both teams. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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The Minden Youth Curling Club has increased this year, with 22 members. The league is seeking volunteers and coaches to keep the sport available for all those interested. /photo submitted

The young curlers recently took to the ice in Huntsville to participate in a curling bonspiel.

Curling for all ages in Minden

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

Curling is often something seen online, or gracing our television screens during the winter Olympics.

But it's something that's also available to everyone and anyone who wants to participate in Haliburton County. "It's been going on for forever," said Lynda Litwin, the coordinator of the Minden Youth Curling program. "And we are growing the club a lot this year."

Based out of the Minden Curling Club on Prentice Street, behind the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena, the youth-centric organization currently has 22 participants, ranging in age from Grade 3 and up. "Half of the participants this year are brand new, and half of them are returning," noted Litwin.

The season starts in November, and coaches and volunteers work with the kids to develop skills and strategies around the game. The coaching culminates with a Christmas Bonspiel, and is the first time many of the kids get to compete.

Following the holiday season, the coaches then dive into regular games for the young participants; giving them a taste of what the sport is like. "It's a lifelong sport," said Litwin, noting that there are participants over the age of 90 in Minden's Curling Club. "You can learn it now, and can play anywhere."

Many of the students attend Archie Stouffer Elementary School, and are able to walk to the club on Thursday afternoons after school. They are then met with a healthy snack and an opportunity to wind down after their busy day, before they hit the ice around 4 p.m. Litwin shared that she is also aware that there are Minden-based kids who attend school in Haliburton, so that start-time is able to accommodate the students who bus in from farther destinations.

The kids do not require any equipment to participate, just clean running shoes and stretchy, warm pants, as well as a helmet that fits to protect themselves on the ice surface. The club is able to provide all other gear needed to curl.

"It's a really cheap and affordable option for kids in our community," said Litwin, "especially with the snack included." The season runs from November through to March, and costs $70 per student. "This is a great opportunity to be introduced to the sport," Litwin said. "And it's a great social sport."

Litwin also noted that Minden offers an open ice program on Sundays for beginners from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. at the Curling Club, for anyone from the public who wants to learn how to curl. "It's open to anyone who wants to be there," she said. "Everyone is welcome."

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Showing up

ONE OF my favourite things to do at those elementary school holiday concerts is to watch little faces scan the crowd. You can see them looking, looking, until they land on a face they recognize. And instantly, their whole demeanour changes. They're lighter, they're more confident, they're happy. Just because someone showed up for them. It's what we do for our friends, for our colleagues, for those we care about.

Maybe no one has explained that to Doug Ford. That it means something to show up. And not just for a photo opportunity wearing a "Canada Not For Sale" token ball cap.

Actually show up. Fight the fight, walk the talk.

Apparently each Progressive Conservative candidate had been given specific direction to not make any public appearances over the duration of this snap election. Now I will admit, this has not been confirmed or denied. I have posed this specific question to a few PC candidates and they seem to have skirted around it.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
Editor

But the point is that they're not here. We haven't seen them. They didn't participate in our candidates debate, they're not making local television appearances. They're not showing up.

Imagine having such an inflated sense of self that you do not feel the need to show up and fight for your cause.

Because that's entirely what an election campaign should be. Parties battling it out over the betterment of their people; sides clearly taken, prerogatives clearly spoken.

In this election, there has been a whole lot of left-leaning representation, with some occasional noise from the very far right, who have wandered so far from the centrefold it makes people wary of their intentions or legitimacy.

But the Conservatives have stood their ground, and refused to show up.

The worst part of all of this, is that if you take their lead and choose not to show up on election day, they'll win. The highest prize going to the laziest contestant. And how is that fair?

We teach our kids that grades aren't important, that winning games doesn't always happen, that sometimes mistakes are made. But none of that matters, as long as they show up. Put their best face forward. Try, try, try.

This election never should have happened. This power-trip Doug Ford is on is coming at the expense - financially and emotionally - of Ontarians. The very least he could do, is show up.

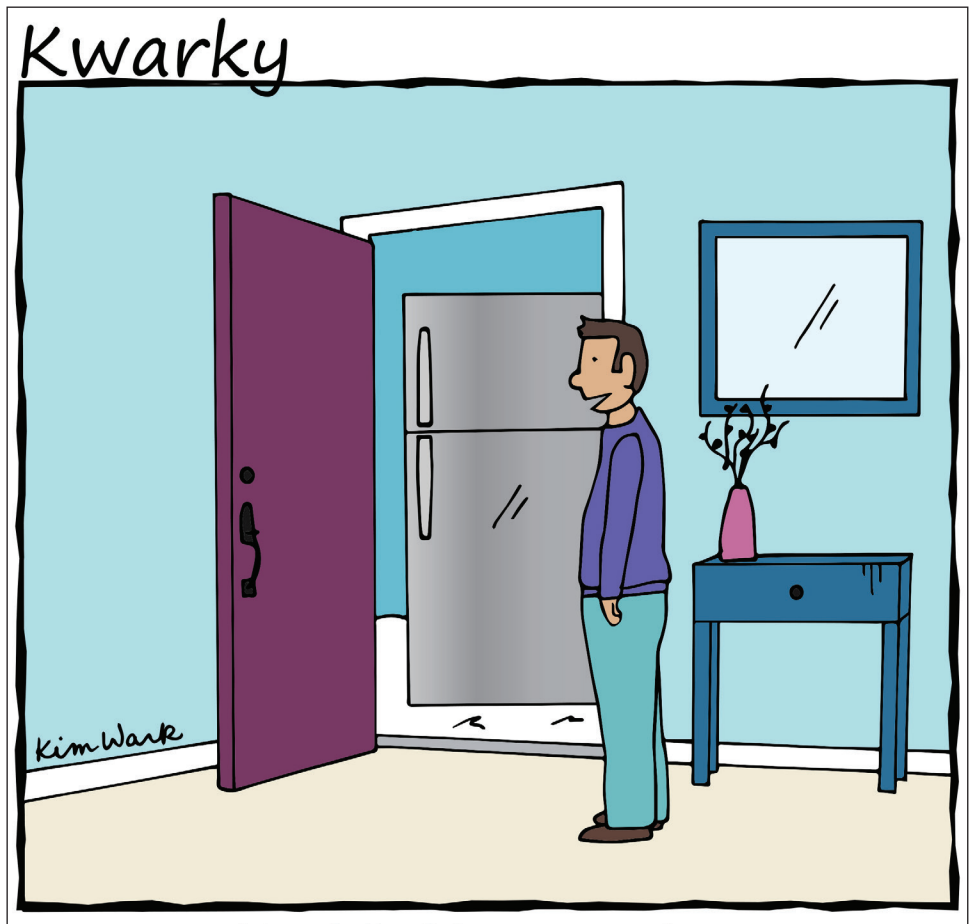
If the Conservatives aren't showing up for you during a chapter where they should be putting their best faces forward, when do you think they will show up? Right now, they are dependent on your ambivalence to win. But we're smarter than that. We have to be.

So with the advance polls behind us and election day happening this week, put your best face forward, and show up. Cast your vote. Speak your truth.

Because in our very core, we need people who show up for us.

And the top prize shouldn't go to the laziest contestant.

That's just not how life works.



"Our meal kit full of fresh ingredients is here."

Melt off

IF ALL goes well, and Trump does not spontaneously decide to rename the month of March, it will be here sooner than we think.

That month brings a lot of good things – for it is that magical time where snow shoveling ends and lawn care has not yet begun.

And, of course, with this glorious month comes the melt off.

This is a time loved by archaeologists because it often unearths things like mastadons, frozen Neanderthals, and where they left their Indiana Jones hats. But, for outdoors folks March can also present a host of problems.

For instance, it can unearth new landscaping projects that your spouse just thought of.

On the plus side, once the snow melts off you can take a break from saying you want to go snowshoeing next week. Plus, if you time the faking of your springtime back injury just right, you can get out of the "help your buddy get his ice hut off the lake" season that's just around the corner.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

Practically speaking, the melt off signifies that the open water fishing season is upon us. This provides a carte blanche for new fishing-related purchases, but only if your spouse does not understand French.

If your spouse does understand French, and specifically the meaning of carte blanche, which means "complete freedom to act as one wishes or thinks best", you might want to start using other euphemisms for that phrase.

I happen to be an expert at this sort of important angling double-speak and – not to brag – was part of the development team that came up with such phrases as "I'm just going to the sporting goods store to take advantage of their fishing clearance sale, where they are practically giving it away." And "I can't believe the guy at the sporting good store gave me this many lures to test out. He says its because I am so good at fishing and honest too…"

Needless to say, this does not always work, especially if your spouse does not practice mindful gullibility. Then again, if your spouse understands French and is not gullible, you probably already know this.

If you are stricken by either of these debilitating issues, you will have to resort to plan B, which is admittedly a desperate one. It tests out the theory that honesty is the best policy, which, as we all know, is a very foreign concept for anglers. Still, it is often worth a try.

I faced this dilemma the other week, when I suggested that I might need a new fishing rod and was countered with the very weak argument, essentially saying, "What's wrong with the 527 fishing rods you already have?"

Caught off-guard, my knee-jerk reaction was to ask, "How's your French?"

She then repeated several colourful phrase in that language, I think.

This left me with no other option than to be honest. So, I told her that the new fly rod I wanted to buy would allow me to increase my casting distance by as much as a metre, should the wind be at my back, and favourable atmospheric conditions prevail.

"Do you think that's worth the several hundred dollars that this rod costs?" She then queried.

I would have said yes. But I didn't want to cause another melt down.

InOtherWords

Columns and Letters to the Editor

Good fences

WE'RE SUPERSENSITIVE to the idea of boundaries right now, with the 'Orange Dicktator' doubling down on the idea of Canada being the 51st state. The undefended border along the 49th parallel is becoming defended, in theory to keep the 'Orange Dicktator' happy (fat chance!) but with the overdue aim of keeping guns out and renewed concern about a rush of incomers as the 'Orange Dicktator' ruthlessly cleans house.

Boundaries are a good thing: Good fences make good neighbours.

Boundaries also help us figure out who we are and who we aren't, both as a country and as a person. Deciding where the inside stops and the outside begins. And how close or how distant to keep the other. Gibran, speaking of marriage: 'Let there be spaces in your togetherness. And let the winds of heaven dance between you. Love one another but make not a bond of love.'

He captures the contradiction of caring, managing the tension of too close and too distant, keeping it clear where you end and the other begins. This is a constant frisson in the business of caring – we know what we want for those we care about, but we have to respect that we can't make people do what we want them to do. To revisit my (borrowed from Senator Landon Pearson) refrain: we can only create the conditions under which they make different choices.

FAY MARTIN
Poke, Peel, Pair, Ponder

The business of boundaries seems to be experiencing some special difficulties at present. The 'Orange Dicktator' is throwing all the old toys out of the sand box as he claims it for himself, whether or not he has the right to do so. He assured us little women that he is going to protect us whether we want it or not, which sounds a bit like the bonds of love that Gibran referenced, and a bit like how Bluebeard took care of his wives. Doug Ford is campaigning on negotiating international trade, which is above his pay grade and not in his job description; his competition reminds him – and us voters – that he has failed quite spectacularly to take care of the business that is his job – health care, education, infrastructure, housing. There seems a temporary reprieve in the chronic argument between the provincial and federal governments about who is responsible for what – by which is meant primarily who is paying for what – while being litigious about where the constitution sets the boundaries.

The Stoic philosophers – long ago; obviously this is not a new conundrum – conceptualized the question of whose job is what in three concentric circles. The smallest is what you can control, the second is what you can influence, the third is what you cannot control, although it is of concern. The best chance for a happy life, they said, was to focus on the inner two circles, what you can control and what you can influence.

These boundaries, particularly the one between control and influence, are vexing to define and protect because they are in constant flux. They don't stay put. The work of figuring it out is never finished. The conclusions are never for sure. Certainty – which we love – is in short supply. Welcome to life, where the only certainty is death.

So how can we get our feet under us in a world where boundaries are in constant change? When I was hanging out with youth who were working on finding themselves – who they were, what they wanted, what they could do, what was beyond them – I capitalized on an enthusiasm for chess to develop what I called the one-square theory. Basically it said – figure out what piece you are, which determines how you move, identify what square you're on, and make a plan to get, move by move, to where you want to go. Which is a pretty good metaphor for life, recognizing that not all pieces are made alike and the game is won by each piece playing its part – queens acting like queens and pawns like pawns. For those youth, seeing their community as the chess board on which their life game was being played offered solidity and focus. Maybe there's something there for us as well.

As we slide into increasingly confusing, chaotic, and almost certainly challenging times, we need strategies for using our energy effectively. For managing well enough when the world bears down on us. The ancient world, where people had much less control over many fewer things, has something to teach us. Control what you can control, influence what you can't control, embrace the challenge of discerning the difference. Don't fuss about what's out of your control.

That's called resilience. It's a good time to give it a try.

Minden Memories

This photo shows Hopkins and Marks store in Kinmount in the 1920s. Harry Hopkins stands behind the counter on the right, accompanied by an unidentified clerk on the left. The well-stocked store offered both packaged goods and bulk products, as seen in the pails and burlap bags on the floor. /Photo courtesy of the Minden Hills Cultural Centre

Haliburton Highlands OPP introduce body worn cameras

The Haliburton Highlands Detachment of the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) are rolling out new technology to their front-line officers.

After a successful roll out of In Car Cameras (ICC) which incorporated an Automated Licence Plate Recognition (ALPR) system, the Haliburton Highlands OPP along with other detachments within Central Region, are starting to roll out their next piece of technology in the form of Body Worn Cameras (BWC).

The implementation of BWCs provides one more tool for the OPP to enable the collection of better evidence, demonstrate greater accountability and transparency, and enhance public and officer safety in the communities we serve.

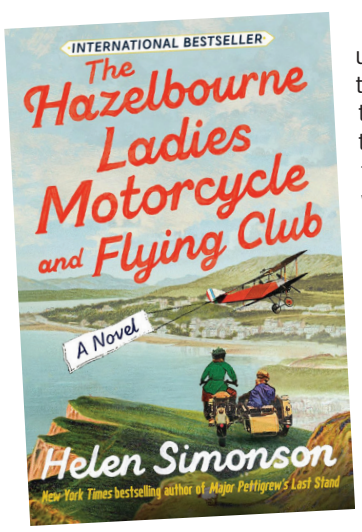
The BWCs are worn on the front of the officer's vest and are clearly visible to anyone an officer may be interacting with. The BWC will display a visible ring of flashing green lights when in standby mode which will turn to flashing red lights once the BWC begins recording.

Officers are currently being trained on the use of the new technology and are being outfitted with their BWC upon the completion of their training. The full rollout for the Haliburton Highlands OPP is anticipated by early spring however officers who have received their training will begin use of the BWCs immediately.

To serve our province by protecting its citizens, upholding the law and preserving public safety. Haliburton Highlands OPP values your contribution to building safe communities. If you have information about suspected unlawful activity, please visit Crime Stoppers at: www.khcrimestoppers.com, or call 1-800-222-TIPS (8477).

Submitted

HCPL's Book of the Week


INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER
The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club
A Novel
Helen Simonson
New York Times bestselling author of Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

In the summer of 1919, Constance Haverhill faces an uncertain future, forced out of her job and home now that men have returned from war. Sent to a seaside town as a lady's companion, she's quickly drawn into the lively social scene of Hazelbourne-on-Sea, befriending Poppy Wirrall – a spirited baronet's daughter who runs a taxi service, and motorcycle club for local women. Amidst the vibrant camaraderie Constance realizes the freedoms women embraced during wartime are now slipping away. As England celebrates peace, Constance and her new friends must navigate the shifting roles and social norms of the post-war era.

The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club by Helen Simonson is available to borrow as a book or book club set from the Haliburton County Public Library.

letters to the editor

A few questions for Laurie Scott

To the Editor,

I wanted to present some questions around Laurie Scott's recent affordable housing announcement

Scott recently announced a 35-unit housing project in Minden, calling it a step toward housing affordability in HKLB. In an Instagram post, she stood along the Gull River with Minden's Mayor Bob Carter and Haliburton County Warden Liz Danielsen.

At first glance, it sounded like a win for the community. But as details unfold, some aspects of the announcement raise more questions than answers.

In her announcement, Scott states, "The 35 housing unit project is receiving $2.4 million," before adding, "part of which is for affordable housing."

The $2.4 million is for a 35-unit housing project, but only part is for affordable housing. How is the rest being used? Without clarification, the scope and impact remain unclear.

The $2.4 million Scott referenced comes from a $75.5 million provincial fund designated to address homeless encampments in public spaces, rather than being solely for affordable housing.

Minden has no reported homeless encampments, while nearby Lindsay faces a crisis. If the funding is for encampment relief, how are allocations being prioritized?

According to the province's January 27 announcement, $3.2 million has been allocated to Kawartha Lakes, which serves as the Consolidated Municipal Service Manager (CMSM) for social services in both the City of Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton County.

The funding, as stated in the government's release, is explicitly intended to help municipalities move vulnerable people from encampments into stable housing and restore safety to public spaces. Municipalities must show progress in winding down encampments to access the full amount.

If this funding is part of that program, what does that mean for Minden and its new housing units? Will they serve local residents in need of affordable housing, individuals from encampments elsewhere, or a combination of both? More clarity would help the public understand how this project fits within the province's overall strategy.

Scott has yet to provide clarity on how this funding fits within the broader provincial strategy, leaving some key questions unanswered.

That same day, Scott posted from a Fenelon Falls construction site, announcing $800,000 for housing, including affordable units.

This announcement had no accompanying news release, no municipal officials visibly present, and no mention of a new investment on the City of Kawartha Lakes pages—leaving the details unclear.

Additionally, similar to Minden, Fenelon Falls has no reported homeless encampments. This raises the question: What exactly is this funding intended for, and where does it come from? With limited details available about these funding allocations, several key questions arise:

How do these projects align with the specific needs of Minden and Fenelon Falls?

Is this funding relocating encampment residents, and was there public consultation?

When Scott refers to "housing units," does this mean permanent housing, or could it also include temporary shelters?

Does the funding provided fully cover the costs of these projects, or will municipalities need to secure additional resources?

Without further clarification, it remains difficult for the public to assess how these investments fit into the broader housing and homelessness strategy.

Adding to the timing of all this, the government was officially dissolved on Tuesday, January 28, at 4:00 PM ahead of the upcoming election.

Scott's announcements came just before this deadline, limiting immediate public discussion. Whether a sincere effort, a rushed display of progress, or part of a broader strategy, the timing raises questions.

Without more transparency, the public is left to fill in the gaps.

Kimberly Perry,
Norland

'Keep pushing for ER,' says OCHU President

by **THOMAS SMITH**
Times Staff

On Feb. 11, CUPE's Ontario Council of Hospital Unions (OCHU- CUPE) hosted a media conference for their Stretcher Tour in front of the site of the Minden Urgent Care Clinic, the former site of the Minden ER.

Despite the blistering cold and the morning snow, around 20 people showed up in support of the talk.

The Stretcher Tour is an effort to spread awareness about the needs for additional beds, staff, and funding to Ontario hospitals and long-term care facilities. The OCHU is travelling to over thirty communities in Ontario including Thessalon, North Bay, Guelph, and Toronto. With each stop, stretchers are on display to showcase the equipment that is needed, as well as information that the union is calling on all parties to address the current healthcare crisis.

"It was a great event," said Michael Hurley, president of the OCHU.

Hurley says that a lack of long-term beds, a lack of family doctors, access to palliative care, end of life care and the wait time for surgeries are all shortcomings of Ontario's healthcare system.

Throughout their speech, anxieties regarding the upcoming election could be felt.

The need for healthcare is especially important in Haliburton County with our aging population. As residents get older, medical anxieties increase. A lack of regular general practitioners in the area means that a doctor cannot monitor people's medical levels and notice abnormalities that are cancerous, says Hurley. Everyone needs to cope with these issues that arise when you get older and your body deteriorates.

Hurley says that the PC Party of Canada

> "Everyone should have a functional emergency department and a viable hospital in your community."
>
> — MICHAEL HURLEY

"often just won't talk about these issues."

The locations for the Stretcher Tour were chosen because they are places impacted by the healthcare crisis due to things like a lack of planning and underfunding. Another tour stop at the South Muskoka Memorial Hospital in Bracebridge was chosen due to the uncertainties with its funding and future, says Hurley. Other sites were targeted due to hospital closures.

"Don't give up," said Hurley. "Everyone should have a functional emergency department and a viable hospital in your community."

Hurley urges the Minden community to continue to demand the reopening of the Minden ER. Hurley noted that with the closure of the Minden ER, the Haliburton hospital is under increased strain for its emergency department, especially during the summer with seasonal residents and tourists.

Minden residents deserve an ER functioning year-round, says Hurley.

"It is possible," said Hurley. "Keep pushing and we'll be successful.

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Kylie Simms won the Award of Recognition in the Grade 6 to Grade 8 category.

Danielle Chambers was awarded the Award of Recognition in the Grade 4 to Grade 5 category at the Student Artist Reception for the Archie Stouffer Elementary School Student Exhibit. Chambers' art depicts a turtle. A proud Turtle Guardian, Chambers' mother says she was inspired after completing Levels one and two of Turtle Camp.

Harper Roberts won the Award of Recognition in the Kindergarten to Grade 1 category

Dozens of ASES students and their parents attended the opening show of the student art exhibit on Feb. 22.

The Land Between; ASES students add colour to community

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

For the second time, Archie Stouffer Elementary School (ASES) has partnered with the Minden Hills Cultural Centre (MHCC) to create a student-centric exhibition. This year, the theme was "The Land Between." The Township of Minden Hills is part of the traditional territory of the Michi Saagiig and Chippewa Nations, collectively known as the Williams Treaties First Nations, which are Curve Lake, Rama, Hiawatha, Alderville, Scugog Island, Beausoleil and Georgina Island First Nations.

The region that Minden is located on was known as "The Land Between," which sits squarely between the Canadian Shield and St. Lawrence Lowlands, and houses a series of unique animals, topography, flora, and fauna.

ASES students were tasked with capturing their vision of what "The Land Between" entailed, and from that, emerged a vibrant and thought-provoking show, now on display at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

"(The show) boosts their confidence, validates their creativity, and gives them a sense of pride," said Cultural Centre programming coordinator, Robert Wong. "It also aims to connect students with the community and nature, encouraging self-expression and inspiring future artistic growth. We would like the students to create an early connection to the MHCC and foster a lifelong relationship.

The Minden Hills Cultural Centre Foundation ensured that all budding artists were able to participate, and donated $250 to purchase art supplies and products needed for the local artists to create their masterpieces.

On Feb. 22, the Cultural Centre opened its doors to welcome the friends and family at the opening reception of *The Land Between.* The show was juried by local well-known artists Gary Blundell, Natalia Brown, Nadine Papp, and Harvey Walker, with students earning awards and recognition for their work.

The Land Between will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until March 15. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre is located at 176 Bobcaygeon Road in Minden.

Drifting away with Dustin Brown: A day as a Minden ice racer

by THOMAS SMITH
Times Staff

Driver Dustin Brown whips around a tight corner on a particularly snowy ice racing day in Minden. /THOMAS SMITH staff

I got into my car to head to the Fairgrounds around a quarter to nine. The jolt of cheap espresso rushes through my veins and the air is thin and crisp. The frigidness bites into my cheeks, something that I have not felt in Minden for many years.

A good buddy of mine heard that I was doing a story on the ice races and travelled from Little Portugal in Toronto. He had listened to me talk about the ice races for months and finally, he gave into the allure and thrill of cars sliding around as fast as possible on ice.

A unique sport, he thought. Something he knew he wanted to see happens at least once in his life.

We pull up to the fairgrounds at nine, with my heart in my stomach as thick flurries fall from the sky.

"Do you think that the ice races are cancelled?" asks my friend.

The parking lot is empty, besides a snowed-in truck and an ice-covered Mazda in the far end of the parking lot.

I check my schedule. I know that the ice races start at 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings, but where is everybody?

We hop out of my car to the distant roar of engines. Ripping down the straightaway, three cars fight for first. The leading car slides into the bank, with second place slamming into its bumper. Third place quickly joins them with an audible crack of second's bumper splitting.

We rush over the snowbanks to get a better sight of the action. Third place spins its wheels in reverse to pull away from the carnage.

"Did you see that?" asks my buddy.

"First time I've seen that happen," I tell him. "I think they are encouraged to avoid stuff like that."

"Today is going to be a good day," says my friend.

I began my search for Elaine Willis, my contact for the ice races. I figure the only way I can authentically write about the ice races is to get myself in a car. Feel the thrill, get thrown around a bit, and slide around the track.

When I asked Willis about getting in a car, she asked when I could come out. The perfect insider to satiate this ice racing craving.

I approach the first person I see with a clipboard in their hands. A clipboard's gotta mean that they know what is going on.

"I'm here for Elaine" I tell them and they point me in her general direction. Our search continues to the registration building, who tell me to search for 38 and 37, her and her son's cars.

Dredging east through the parking lot in the deep snow, I approach Elaine's car, which starts as I approach. I notice that she is wearing a jacket that says Class 2 Champion. She says that she is off for a race and hands me off to her son, Craig, who walks me to the office to register.

Craig tells me he has been driving ever since he got his driver's license. It seems every member of the Willis family has the need for speed.

Willis tells me that when they got their Paseo about 15 years ago, her husband didn't want to leave the car red, to stand out from the Robson and Rashleigh cars. Both her and her son's car are red with two distinct yellow stripes down the side.

"He had some vinyl left from one of his race cars," said Willis. "Boom, it ended up as a stripe on the car."

I am told to go find Dustin Brown, who sports the racing number 167. After Anne McCallum registers me at the registration trailer, I have the chance to speak with Brown before our race.

Brown shares that the day's snow is making the track tricky to maneuver. It is a blessing compared to the past two years' weather, with the ice racing season being cut short due to a lack of snow.

"It will be an interesting race, because they are flipping the grid on us," said Brown.

After maintaining his position in first this season, our race would involve Brown's fight for first position.

"Am I a hindrance to you in the race?" I ask Brown.

"In this direction, in theory, you are actually helping," said Brown.

"We try to make this sport as easy as possible, so you can share a car, you don't have to rent a truck and trailer because you can leave your car here," said Brown. "You can rent a U-Haul, bring it here and it stays for the entire season."

Brown, a resident of Cannington, says that he has been racing in the ice races for twelve years. A friend took him to the ice races one year, that is how he got hooked.

The excitement builds while we wait for Brown to return from his race with his primary car. Snow sprays off the car's wheels into the breeze, covering my face. Our race would be next in his secondary car he could have a passenger in.

Brown returns and hands me a helmet that I squeeze my skull into.

I climb into the Brown's 2002 Subaru Impreza. It is unlike any vehicle I have been into. A skeletal frame, tubes, and wires all lay bare before me. Seeing its guts and inner workings is unnatural, the act feels almost perverse.

We roll up to wait in line. I am oddly calm. Perhaps I accepted whatever fate comes to me, or maybe the one-size-too-small helmet is squeezing my brain a bit tight, cutting off my ability to feel fear.

The flag man guides us to our starting position. Back of the line.

With a long lit cigarette dangling from his mouth, he brings us bumper to bumper to start the race. It wobbles while he speaks, yet never falls.

I look over to Brown and ask "Do you ever have a strategy befo-"

The flag is dropped and with an intense roar, my head is thrown back into my seat. Brown slams on the gas and steers to the left. We immediately launch into second place, leaving behind some front wheel drive vehicles in our slush.

Reflecting on the race has my mind in a blur. Not from blunt force trauma, but from the sheer speed and angle in which Brown would sling the car around the track. With my long legs pushing against the dash and my door, I hold on to a leather strap on the door to make sure it won't fling open during our race.

After the first two laps, we became locked in head to head combat for first with a black Subaru. For three laps, we chased the Subaru's tail. We take the inside line, but it angles itself to block us. Finally, the Subaru has to correct itself after taking a turn.

Brown seizes the opportunity and slams on the gas while gliding us effortlessly around the bend past the pine tree. We stay in first for another couple laps, until a car in front of us hits the snowbank on the left side and spins out.

Brown lets out a yelping scream as he cranks the wheel to the right. We miss slamming into the car's passenger side door by a hair.

"Are your pants wet yet?" yells Brown.

"Not yet," I yell back.

Brown giggles in sheer excitement. By the final lap, I can feel the muscles in my back pulling due to the G-force of the car drifting around the turns. The sensation is completely alien as a regular driver. For most of the race, I am sideways.

We lap other drivers and when it is our final lap, the flagman accidentally signals us to go for another lap. Why not, I figure, why stop the fun there.

We finished the race in first place.

Well, Brown got first, but as valuable "centralized weight" I was an integral part of the team.

After getting out of the car and talking with the other drivers, it is clear that there is a unique community of drivers that participate in the ice races. Drivers from all over come to Minden to race on the weekends.

> "We try to make this sport as easy as possible
>
> –DUSTIN BROWN"

It doesn't matter who you are, as long as you love the thrill of speed.

The ice races are a special community that supports each other, whether that is by pulling each other out of the snowbank, taping your bumper back on, or jumping your car whose battery died in the cold. In addition to keeping their fees lower compared to other racing options, the ice racing community is warm and welcoming to anyone that is interested in participating. Every driver I met was excited to hear about how the race had been and asked when I would come out with my own car.

It is clear that the drivers want the sport to grow. They want to encourage more racers to come out and join in on the fun. Whether you are a seasoned racer, or someone that is new to the sport, the ice racers encourage everyone to come out.

They are willing to bet that you know someone with the perfect car just waiting to have its guts ripped out and made into an ice racing car.

This year's sponsors for the ice races include Minden's Carquest Auto Parts, Syntheia.ai, RSR Racing, and Ken Shaw Lexus.

The final race weekend for the ice races will be on March 1 and 2. Admission is free and the chance to find a racer willing to take you out as your passenger are high. Races begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday.

Algonquin Highlands to survey residents about identity

by JAMES MATTHEWS
Times Staff

A branding strategy would be best without ambiguity.

Such a strategy identifies specificity of object or place. And such is what Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor Jennifer Dailloux brought to the fore when council discussed a municipal branding strategy during its Feb 20 meeting.

Dailloux expressed concern about the use of the word "township." Easily passed over, yeah? But such a term and its use is at the crux of a municipal brand.

"I wonder if there could be different interpretations of what we mean," she said. "Could some people think that we're talking about the township office, administration, and staff services, etcetera, etcetera versus the community of Algonquin Highlands," she said.

The development of an official branding strategy for Algonquin Highlands was identified as a strategic goal within the community engagement section of the 2024-28 Corporate Strategic Plan.

Such a strategy will create a unified philosophical identity for the township and establish a guide for the use of aesthetic elements such as colour, font, taglines, and tone to be incorporated into promotional materials.

A working group tasked with formulating a corporate strategic plan spawned a branding strategy working group. A short public survey might follow in which residents and friends of Algonquin Highlands will be asked to share their thoughts about the township's identity, what it means to them, and its greatest strengths and most unique assets.

Such reflections will be incorporated into the township identity that will appear in the final branding document.

Mayor Liz Danielsen said many people still think about the township in terms of Stanhope or Dorset and the facets of the overall community.

"The intent is really just to find out how people feel about their community as opposed to what colours they like," the mayor said.

A survey will be released in the future.

No ice is safe ice; winter season sees spike in falls

by THOMAS SMITH
Times Staff

This winter season, emergency services have seen the highest calls pertaining to falls through ice than in previous years, says Haliburton County Paramedic Chief Michael Slatter.

Slatter and the Haliburton Highlands OPP are advising the public to consider no ice as safe ice.

If you find yourself to have fallen through the ice, the first step is to remain calm. Immediately attempt to extricate yourself from the ice. When fallen, hold out your arms to prevent yourself falling completely through. Hold the ice and try to pull yourself out, kicking your legs as hard as you can. When out of the ice, roll away from the hole towards the shore. Seek warmth and shelter immediately, remove wet clothing, and put on dry clothing if possible. If you are unable to pull yourself out, attempt to freeze your sleeves to the ice to secure yourself. Make yourself known, as loud as possible.

Warm yourself up slowly, do not take a hot bath or a shower as it can induce a shock-state in the body.

Before walking on frozen ice, it is advised to talk to locals that are in-the-know, whether that includes local ice hut operators, or residents. Test the thickness regularly on your way out onto the ice.

"There are many factors that affect the thickness even a few feet apart. If they insist on going out, make sure they check local conditions," said Slatter. "The only way to truly know the ice thickness is to make a hole and check. Snow acts as an insulator on ice and can make the thickness and strength of the ice variable."

Falling into freezing cold water can cause hypothermia, an immediate life-threatening issue. Within 10 minutes of falling through the ice your body may be unable to function properly.

Another ailment that can affect people in the cold is frostbite. If you believe you may have frostbite, warm yourself slowly by putting on warm clothes or walking at a brisk pace.

Throughout the winter, emergency services' most common calls are from ice rescues, motor vehicle collisions, slips and falls, and injuries due to winter sport activities.

Before going out, monitor the weather and be prepared for it. Dress in layers and let someone know where you are going and what time you will return. Listen closely to warnings provided by emergency services. Carry a smartphone in a waterproof bag with the location services on. Carry a survival kit with a minimum of foil blanket, waterproof matches or flint and steel, and a mirror.

Take the time to educate yourself on ice water safety and what to do if you find yourself in the water. The 1-10-1 guideline is a good place to start, knowing this could help you survive longer if the worst should happen.

The 1-10-1 Guideline Breakdown is helpful to keep in mind for emergency situations pertaining to the ice. The 1-10-1 Guideline includes:

First 1 minute (Cold shock response)

- The initial gasp reflex can cause inhalation of water, leading to drowning
- Rapid hyperventilation occurs, increasing the risk of panic

*During the first minute, victims should focus on calming themselves and controlling breathing.

Next 10 minutes (Cold incapacitation)

- Loss of muscle control begins, affecting the ability to swim or self-rescue.
- Fine motor skills deteriorate first, followed by gross motor skills.
- If not wearing a PFD, the victim may lose the ability to stay afloat.

*If self rescue is not achieved in these 10 minutes, it is best to focus on anchoring yourself to the ice and remaining still.

*The body loses heat 25 times faster in water versus air when remaining still and 35 times faster when swimming or struggling.

Next 1 hour (Hypothermia)

- Core body temperature drops, leading to possible loss of consciousness.
- Death can occur due to cardiac arrest or drowning if not rescued in time.

Snowmobiling is the largest contributor towards emergency calls for people that have fallen through the ice. The OPP considers no ice to be safe and encourages snowmobilers to avoid frozen waterways altogether and to adhere to land-based OFSC trails.

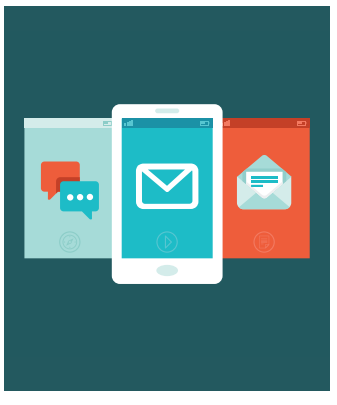
In the past decade, 40 per cent of fatalities of snowmobiles occurred from falling into ice.

The Haliburton County Snowmobile Association follows OFSC guidelines when marking trails across lakes. There must be at least eight inches of ice on top of the water before a trail is staked.

Halls Lake is currently unstaked as the ice was only six inches towards the northern shore, says Neil Vanderstoop, HCSA president.

"There is still water in the bush that is not frozen yet," said Vanderstoop. " Make sure you are always going the speed limit, it only takes a second for someone to be in big trouble."

The HCSA would also like to add that they are always looking for more volunteers, whether you snowmobile or not. They are always looking for volunteers to assist with events, office duties, grooming, signage, and much, much more. HSCA volunteers assist with ensuring proper messaging and signage to assist with keeping everyone safe.



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Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Minden Ice Races Schedule 2025
When: Mar. 1-2
Where: Minden Fairgrounds
Spectator admission is free. Races begin at 9 a.m. on Saturdays and 11 a.m. on Sundays.
Adrenaline-packed racing on a frozen track!

Youth Unlimited Gym Nights
When: Mar 7 - Sports and Dodgeball 6:30 to 9 p.m., Apr 4 - Sports and 9 Square 6:30 to 9 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Highlands Secondary School
For Grades 6 to 12. For more info contact haliburton@youthunlimitedkaw.com.

Growing Food from Seed
When: March 4, 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Community Center, 55 Parkside St. Minden
Do you love gardening? Join the Minden and District Horticultural Society at the Minden Community Center. Guest speaker Diana Westland will be discussing 'Growing Food from Seed ', followed by the monthly society meeting. New members welcome!

HHOA Wild Game Dinner
When: Saturday, March 29
Bar opens at 5 p.m., Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion, Main Hall
Tickets: $50 person
Silent Auction. 50/50 draw. Tickets are on sale. For credit card purchases call Laurie at HHOA on Tuesday and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 705-457-9664 or Linda at 705 457-2064. For in person sales drop in to see Laurie at HHOA on Tuesdays and Thursdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The wild game served at this event has not been inspected under the R.S.O. meat inspection act. Domestic meat available. Website: hhoa.on.ca

Recurring events

Weekly Meat Rolls
When: Every Saturday, 3 p.m.
Where: Coboconk Legion, Hwy 48 and 35
Join us for our weekly meat draw at the Coboconk Legion. Five spins for $10. The first four rounds are for highest and lowest score with two winners per round. The last round is for a prepare-it-yourself dinner for two. Additional spins for this round are available for $2 each. Call 705-454-8127 or email info@coboconklegion.ca for more information.

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Room. All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Huskies Hockey

The Huskies kicked off their Feb. 22 game with a special shout-out to all the local billet families, who open their homes to the players through the season in an effort to ensure they have a place to stay. The Huskies went on to beat the Markham Royals 5 - 1. / TIM YANO staff photographer

Sudoku brought to you by

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SUDOKU

8	6							4
				9				3
9	3					2		
			4					9
					5	4	7	2
	8						6	
	9		6		1			
7			3	2				
					4		1	7

Level: Intermediate

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Answers on page 4

Huskies Hockey

For the second game of the double-header weekend on Feb. 23, The Huskies friends and families were invited to the ice, to partake in a special ceremony for the team members who are graduating. The tight-knit team has spent an impressive season together, and coaches were eager to celebrate the players, and all they have done. Following the ceremony, the team went on to beat the Stouffville Spirit 4 - 3. The playoff season starts this week. Stay tuned for more coverage. /TIM YANO staff photographer

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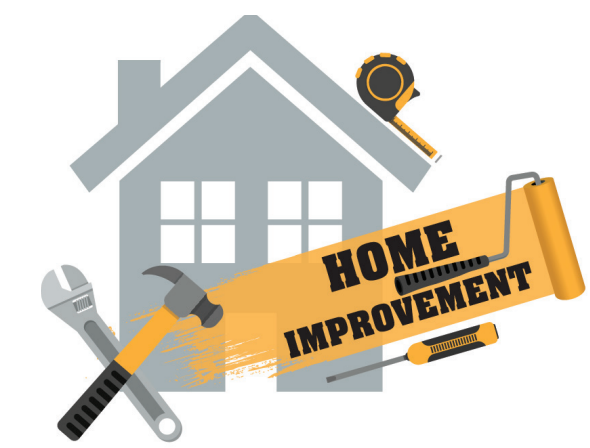

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County Life

Cam Espina of Minden plays guitar in Doorstep Fire, and has been regularly playing gigs in and around the community for years.

Seamus Lynch of Haliburton is the lead singer of Doorstep Fire, a punk band based out of Toronto. Lynch and fellow band members hope to use music to navigate a challenging political climate. /photo submitted

Music for the ages; how punk rock unites an experience

by **EMILY STONEHOUSE**
Editor

A group of Haliburton locals have taken to the stage in an effort to raise awareness around social justice.

Of the four-member punk group Doorstep Fire, three of the band members have called Haliburton County 'home.' Seamus Lynch, Cameron Espina, and Wesley Stoughton are no strangers to the music scene of the area; having participated in Battle of the Bands, which raised money for the local skate park that is used and loved today.

The musicians also formed The Bones of Jim Jones while in high school, playing at their 2020 graduation ceremony, then heading to Montreal to record an album before going their separate ways.

After living out west, Lynch felt the draw to return to a world of creativity. When an opening came up to relocate to Toronto, he jumped at the opportunity. As he settled into city life, he started to find his artistic world take shape. "I've found a community here of artists and like-minded people," said Lynch.

He had one priority: form a punk band. And slowly but surely, the members from his original Haliburton-music days seemed to fall into place in the conception of Doorstep Fire.

But as political tensions continue to rise around the world, Lynch - the lead singer and lyricist - feels it's more important than ever to use their platform. "Fascism and far-right ideologies are on the rise," said Lynch. "We want to unite a community of like-minded artists and free thinkers."

Lynch described Doorstep Fire's style as hardcore punk, but with a timeless sound. He noted that he grew up listening to old blues tunes by Miles Davis and Dizzy Gillespie, while other members of the band are professionally trained in jazz or heavy metal. "It's a real blend," he said.

As the lead lyricist, Lynch puts the songs together, then brings them to the table for the rest of the band to dissect and build-on. Together, they prioritize the need for general references, while still trying to stay timely and topical. "We want people to listen to our music 20 years from now, and have it still sound relevant to them," said Lynch. "We want them to still be able to connect to our sound and our messages."

With their name becoming common on the tongues of Torontonians and locals alike after a series of successful and regular gigs, Doorstep Fire wants to use this opportunity to kick things up a notch with their first music video.

But they want to do it properly. They have partnered with a videographer who uses film to shoot content; an endeavour that will have a dramatic effect in the video, but will cost a pretty penny to make. "But we want to make sure we do this right," said Lynch.

As young musicians navigating the ins and outs of the urban music scene, Lynch has turned to the support of the community to assist in the funding for the project. The video, titled *Down Street*, is an anti-war protest song, shining a spotlight on the military occupation of foreign countries.

"I see so much frustration and anger in the world right now," said Lynch, "so I want to try to find those healthy ways to channel that properly, and bring light to corruption and war. I have a stage and I have a platform, and I feel like I have an obligation to do that."

The energy in Lynch's tone is plapable; and it's blatantly apparent that music flows through his veins, wraps around his soul. He is eager to take things to the next level, and to bolster his band - and their messages - farther into the music scene. "There's nothing else we want to do in life than play music," he said. "We want to come out of the gate swinging."

For more information on Doorstep Fire or to follow their journey around the development of *Down Street*, visit their Instagram page @doorstepfirehc.

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Dawn Mugford-Guay,
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HALIBURTON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haliburton County Public Library is currently recruiting
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This part-time position (28 hours per week) develops and implements strategies to increase the community's engagement with library services and provides admin assistance. Hourly wage range is $32.29 - $37.77.

Applications
Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for detailed postings and job descriptions.
Forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **March 10, 2025.**

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted. The County of Haliburton is an equal employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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650 OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Ann Coventry Barker

(Former Owner of Don Barker Heating and Cooling)

Passed away peacefully at Hyland Crest Senior Citizens Home, Minden on Monday, February 17, 2025 at the age of 85.

Beloved wife of the late Donald (2014). Dear mother of Stephen (the late Barb), David (Jonothon) and Leeanna. Loving grandma to Curtis (Megan), Gavin (Sammie), William, Jennifer and great grandma Sienna and Terra. Fondly remembered by family and friends.

Ann and Don moved to Carnarvon in 1974 and purchased the Little Chick Inn owned it until 1979. Ann then operated her own catering business; many will remember her fantastic roast beef dinners at the Stanhope Fire Hall. She was on the Stanhope Council from 1982-2000 and acted as Deputy Reeve from 1988-1991.

Friends are invited to visit the family at the Gordon A. Monk Funeral Home Ltd., 127 Bobcaygeon Rd., P.O. Box 427, Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0 on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 11:00 am until the time of the Service to Celebrate Ann's Life at 1:00 pm. Reception to follow in the Monk-Cray Family Centre. Interment at Maple Lake Cemetery.

Memorial Donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation (HHHSF) would be appreciated by the family.

www.gordonmonkfuneralhome.com

In Loving Memory of

Patrick Arthur O'Connor

1956 – 2025

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Patrick Arthur O'Connor on January 26, 2025. Patrick was a beloved brother to Michael (Martha), Shane (Christine), and Brian (Anne -2016), and a cherished uncle to Caity and Patrick, Carey, Shannon and Kyli.

A graduate of Western University, Patrick enjoyed a remarkable career as a civil engineer. He began his professional journey with CN Rail before co-founding the specialized railway engineering firm Claire Wicklow Engineers. He then spent 18 years with Hatch Mott MacDonald, working on projects across Canada, as well as in Guinea, Jamaica and Pakistan. Known for his generosity in sharing his knowledge, many of today's railway engineering professionals credit his patient guidance as foundational to their success.

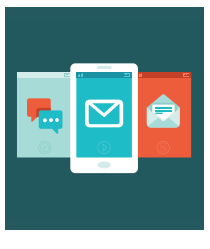
Outside of his career, Patrick found great joy snowmobiling with friends, and in weekends and holidays spent at his family's farm in Gelert. There, he put his best engineering skills to use as the self-appointed official Christmas toy builder, a tradition that brought much joy to the family.

After retiring in 2015, Patrick found serenity at his beautiful 1860s log cabin in Kinmount, nestled on 100 acres of natural beauty. There, he crafted scenic walking trails and embraced the tranquility of the land. Patrick's hands were never idle—his workshop was his sanctuary, where he would bring mechanical things back to life with remarkable skill.

A proud and respected member of the Old Saw Hunting Camp in Anson Township, Patrick enjoyed hunting and fishing with friends, where his ingenuity, musicality, and thoughtfulness were greatly admired.

Patrick leaves behind a legacy of hard work, adventure, and unwavering support. His warmth, wisdom, and generosity will be deeply missed by all who were fortunate enough to know him.

The family invites you to share photos or stories to MemoriesofPatOC@gmail.com. A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring.



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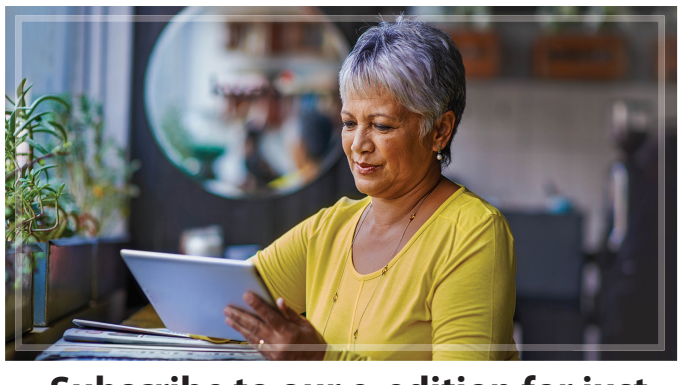

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Monday, February 28, 2000 Number 1929

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A SHOWER OF PENNIES: It arrived mostly in pennies, but there were also some loonies, nickels and dimes in the buckets, when the students of Archie Stouffer Elementary school were challenged to collect loose change for the Haliburton Highlands Health Service Foundation Capital Campaign. The project, co-ordinated by the Junior Kindergarten classes, resulted in students scouring kitchen counter tops, dressers and searching behind sofa cushions to gather a donation of $617.24, or almost a dollar a student. The penny collection was held in conjunction with the one hundredth day of the school year. School Principal Rosie Kenney topped up the donation with a pledge of ten cents for every dollar raised, while the senior students added $118 raised at their Valentine's Day dance. Surrounded by the members of the Junior Kindergarten classes, parent volunteer Cheri Hicks and JK student Dakotah Francis last week presented Foundation Chair Gord Monk with a pail filled with the proceeds.

$5.1 M approved for SSFC expansion

"We're getting a new campus," said Brian Desbiens, enthusiastically.

The president of Sir Sandford Fleming College was referring to the announcement from the Ontario Ministry of Education of $27.45-million in funding for Fleming campuses in Peterborough, Lindsay and Haliburton.

Haliburton's share is $5.1-million, which will go toward the construction of a new campus in the village.

"It's terrific news," Desbiens said.

Those thoughts were repeated by Barb Bolin, campus operations leader in Haliburton. "This is wonderful news," she stated. "It will be great to be able to consolidate all of our courses under one roof."

Desbiens noted that the college will have to do some fund-raising as well, but he added, "It's going to happen and that is very exciting."

The municipality of Dysart et al will be a partner in the venture. It is donating the land for the new campus, a small section of Glebe Park. Details are still being worked out to make sure the other park features, such as snowmobile and Nordic ski trails aren't adversely affected. The Dysart contribution of the land and municipal services will be included as part of the public portion of the expansion. A study is currently under way to determine the area's capacity for fund-raising.

Plans for a new campus in Haliburton have been in the works for some time, but the funds had not been com-

(more on page 3)

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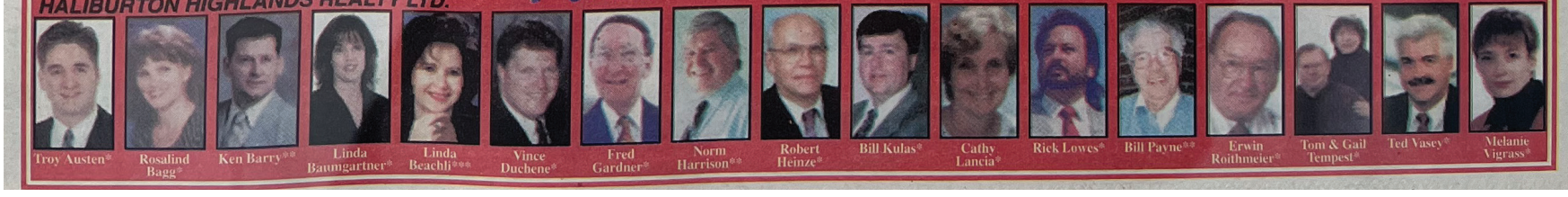
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